

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 206063
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 PM-05 NSCE-00
H-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /046 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:WBREER:LE
APPROVED BY EA/J:ADROMBERG
-----098367 151645Z /45

P 151452Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206063

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT:DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

REF: TOKYO 14431

1. AMBASSADOR'S LETTER WAS DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
REQUEST REFTEL AT 1200 AUG. 10. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICERS
HAVE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR LETTER.

2. IN ADDITION, ACTING SECRETARY SENT FOLLOWING LETTER TO
SEN. STENNIS AND REP. MAHON AUG. 14.

3. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: WHILE THE EMPLOYMENT
AND COMPENSATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AT ITS OVERSEAS INSTALLATIONS IS
PROPERLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
INASMUCH AS THESE ARE GOVERNED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT,
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ALSO HAS AN IMPORTANT INTEREST IN
THIS MATTER. IN THIS REGARD, I HAVE NOTED THAT SECTION
862 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1979
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WOULD LIMIT THE COMPENSATION THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
CAN PAY TO FOREIGN NATIONAL EMPLOYEES TO THAT WHICH IS NOT
IN EXCESS OF LOCALLY PREVAILING WAGES AND PRACTICES.

4. I AM IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE CONTAINED
IN THIS SECTION OF THE BILL. THE DEPARTMENT HAS SOUGHT,
IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, TO ADJUST

OUR COMPENSATION ACCORDINGLY. WHILE WE HAVE ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS IN LIMITING COMPENSATION, WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO BRING OUR COMPENSATION INTO LINE WITH LOCALLY PREVAILING PRACTICE, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE HISTORICAL SETTING IN WHICH CONTRACTS AND PRACTICES WERE ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED.

5. WHILE WE WILL CONTINUE VIGOROUSLY TO PURSUE THE GOALS OUTLINED IN SECTION 862, WE BELIEVE THE PASSAGE OF THIS SECTION WOULD CONSTITUTE A UNILATERAL BREACH OF THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACTS UNDER WHICH WE EMPLOY FOREIGN NATIONALS AT OVERSEAS INSTALLATIONS, RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION AMONG OUR EMPLOYEES, AND COMPLICATE RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS. SUCH LEGISLATIVE PRESSURE WOULD ALSO RUN THE RISK OF UNDERMINING OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE COST RELIEF FROM GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE OTHERWISE INCLINED TO HELP US. IN THIS REGARD, AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD HAS INFORMED ME THAT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, INCLUSION OF SECTION 862 WOULD HAVE A MOST DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON THUS FAR PROMISING COST-SHARING POSSIBILITIES WITH JAPAN FOR THE COMING YEAR.

6. I FULLY SHARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS WE FACE, AND WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ALLEVIATE THEM. IN THIS INSTANCE, HOWEVER, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE FOREGOING AND HOPE
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THE COMMITTEE WILL FIND IT IN THE GREATER NATIONAL INTEREST TO DELETE SECTION 862. SINCERELY, WARREN CHRISTOPHER. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MS SMITH S/S-O

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APPROPRIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Litigation Codes:
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: MARR, JA, US
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